

The Amateur in You, Part 2

What have you been pondering?



Radio preparation prior to an emergency

One of the reasons you might have gotten your license includes preparedness, because you know that ham radio can provide a lifeline to help when other resources become unavailable. So, what can you do with your little electronic gadget so that it'll be ready for you when you really need it? In fact, there are many ways you can include your radio in family and personal preparedness plans, but think of these activities in two different ways: use your radio now, and prepare to use your radio later.

Use your radio now

During a disaster is a little late to start becoming acquainted with your radio gear. It might be better to practice getting on the air and rubbing shoulders with others who feel the same urgency for preparedness. These suggestions could help you reach that goal:



- Join a [ham radio club](#)
- Find a [neighborhood or church net](#) and check in regularly
- [Get on the air](#) and practice
- Store [repeater and useful simplex frequencies](#) in your radio memory
- [Get on the air](#) and play
- Volunteer for [radio training](#), either to become trained or to [present your own training topic](#)
- [Get on the air](#) often and make new friends
- Participate in a [city-wide drill](#)
- [Get on the air](#) (are you sensing a pattern here?)

Prepare for later use

There are things you can do, to help prepare you for a disaster, without requiring you to get on the air very much right now. Here are some ideas that might help you prepare further:

- Build a [72-hour go-kit](#)
- Become [CERT certified](#)
- Make a [family preparedness plan](#)
- Rehearse your plan
- Practice packing your go-kit places, setting it up, and actually using it
- Being able to make your own antenna or other components could come in handy when times get rough and you need to improvise, so try experimenting with a few small [do-it-yourself projects](#)